



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
Washington Field Office
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507
(360) 902-1940 Fax (360) 902-2091

Washington Crop Weather

Released: September 4, 2007
Week Ending: September 2, 2007
CWP WA-CW3607

Good Weather Keeps Focus on Harvest

Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.8. The major grain growing counties reported that grain harvest was essentially done. The planting of winter wheat was underway but many farmers were waiting for rain. Whatcom County reported a fourth cutting of grass for silage, and in other counties a fourth cutting of alfalfa was underway. The potato and Garbanzo bean harvest continued. Christmas tree growers were shearing Douglas and Grand fir.

Fruits and Vegetables

Moderate weather conditions were conducive to harvest; no precipitation with cool nights and no threats of frost. Harvest of Bartlett pears was winding down in the upper Yakima Valley. Apple growers are harvesting Golden Delicious, early varieties of Fuji and color picking Honeycrisp apples. The sweet corn harvest continued. Cranberry growers continued irrigation and pest control. The planting of cabbage seed crops continued.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 12% very poor, 21% poor, 19% fair, 41% good, and 7% excellent. Hay supplies continued to be tight and cattle were being moved to market. Calf weaning continued. Shellfish growers were still operating under the five-hour rule, requiring that shellfish be refrigerated within five hours after harvest.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.8
Last Week	5.9

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	22	40	38	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	23	37	37	3
Subsoil	28	37	35	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	14	36	50	0
Irrigation Water	3	5	92	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	5	7	88	0
Hay & Roughage	7	27	64	2

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2006	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	96	88	93	95
Winter Wheat Planted	15	4	NA	12
Winter Wheat Harvested	99	97	98	97
Barley Harvested	95	85	91	94
Potatoes Harvested	47	41	50	46
Corn Silked	93	90	100	100
Corn Dough	48	47	58	74
Corn Dented	39	33	48	51
Corn Mature	12	8	21	22
Corn Silage Harvested	18	17	23	15
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	33	17	38	30
Dry Peas Harvested	99	94	99	98
Alfalfa Hay 2 nd Cutting	100	99	100	100
Alfalfa Hay 3 rd Cutting	78	59	85	90
Alfalfa Hay 4 th Cutting	1	0	NA*	NA*

NA=Not Applicable *No historical data available.

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Potatoes	0	2	14	84	0
Corn	0	0	10	64	26
Dry Edible Beans	0	5	28	55	12

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

Washington State University
Cooperative Extension Service
Linda Fox
Dean/Director, WSU Extension

USDA
Farm Service Agency
Jack M. Silzel
State Executive Director

USDA/NASS--Washington Field Office
Chris Messer -- Director
Alan Funk- Ag Statistician

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clallam/Jefferson: The weather temperature highs were in the 60s and lows were in the 40s and 50s. It was good for the second cutting of hay. Second cuttings came without irrigation. Cattle were being butchered for beef and feeder calves were being sold.

Grays Harbor: Cereal grain producers took advantage of ideal conditions for combining early in the week. Livestock owners pulled and sprayed the noxious weed tansy ragwort. Christmas tree growers sheared Douglas and Grand fir. Sweet corn growers were pleased that the unseasonably wet August had negated the need for irrigation; at least temporarily. Home gardeners continued feasting on tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet corn and new potatoes.

Pacific: Late season field activities were underway with favorable weather conditions. Cranberry growers continued irrigation, pest control and were expecting reasonably good yields for this fall. Shellfish growers were still operating under the five hour rule, requiring that shellfish be refrigerated within five hours after harvest. Raspberry growers continued pruning and weed control efforts. Pasture conditions remained good, with the cool temperatures.

Pierce/S. King: Crop conditions remained good for the South Puget Sound area. No unusual situations to report. There were no reports of any crop damage due to a weather event.

Skagit: High temperatures averaged 70 degrees. There was .2 of an inch of precipitation recorded at the WSU North West Research and Extension Center in West Mount Vernon. Some cabbage seed farmers were able to harvest their fields last Friday. Yields will be less than average this year due to rainy weather that shattered the seed pods and made the seed sprout before it could be harvested. The 2008 cabbage seed crop was in the ground. Spinach seed farmers were cursing this week's rain, with the majority of this year's crop on the ground. The rain will set back harvesting and reduce yields. Area bulb farmers were

planting. Potato harvest had begun. This year's cucumbers were being harvested. Local corn was being marketed around the county.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: The area experienced warm days although it was partly cloudy for most of the week, with cooler nights. Corn was doing well and harvest continued on silage crops as normal. Planting of cabbage seed crops continued. Rainfall was negligible.

Snohomish/N. King: Once again the weather temperature was in the 70s for a high and 50s for a low. Fall was in the air with the cooler nights. Corn was a little late this year in maturing.

Snohomish/N. King (2nd Report): The area experienced a good, dry week for field work, and it was not too hot. Sweet corn harvest continued and potato harvest was underway. Pastures were still doing well and summer vegetables were still being harvested. Wild blackberry harvest continued.

Thurston: Agricultural producers took advantage of ideal weather conditions for harvesting hay. Christmas tree growers continued to shear Douglas fir and top work Noble fir. Blueberry growers were completing machine harvest for this year. Turfgrass growers continued preparing harvested fields for fall seeding. Home gardeners complained about the lack of fruit in the home orchard compared to last year's bumper crop. The rural landscape remained unseasonably green for this time of the year due to the wet August.

Whatcom: Temperatures for the week averaged 62 degrees. Very little precipitation was received; irrigation was required for all crops. Potatoes continued to be harvested. Blueberry harvest was winding down. Fourth cutting of grass for silage was underway.

Central

Chelan/Douglas: Winter wheat harvest was completed. Yields were average. Producers were seeding the 2008 winter wheat crop and were finding average moisture. Bartlett pears and Gala apples were being harvested. The crop looked good. Warm days and cool nights were excellent conditions for the apples to help them ripen and color.

Klickitat: Significant grasshopper damage limited hay, range, and pasture production in some areas of the county (Glenwood valley).

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 6 degrees below normal to 12 degrees above normal, with no precipitation received. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Yakima (2nd Report): The area had moderate weather conditions conducive to harvest; no precipitation with cool nights with no threats of frost. Harvest of Bartlett pears was winding down in the upper Yakima Valley. Apple growers were harvesting Golden Delicious, early varieties of Fuji and color picking Honeycrisp apples.

Eastern

Asotin: Scattered thunder showers brought rain to some areas of the county. Heavy rains will be needed in many areas before fall tillage work begins.

Asotin/Garfield: Dry, hot weather continued last week with little relief from the drought in sight. Farmers had completed harvest and turned their attention to preparations for planting winter wheat. Moisture in the summer fallow was poor in most areas and rain is needed before planting begins. Rangeland and pastures continued to be in mostly poor condition and in need of rain.

Ferry: The drought continued and springs were running dry.

Lincoln: Seeding will start with a bang after Labor Day. Moisture was good in some areas and marginal in the west end of the county.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Grain harvest was almost complete except for periodic rains which delayed some producers. Fall seeding had begun with more producers doing the same.

Pend Oreille: The Friday night storm brought in .5 of an inch of much needed rain, but too little too late. The pasture and rangeland was starting to show signs of life but too late in the season as snow is at least two months away. Most non-irrigated hay fields were either not cut or very little hay was cut earlier this year. Irrigated lands did ok, but hay was still in short supply. Livestock were on hay fields and grain supplement.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A thunder storm went through parts of Spokane County causing trees to blow over and loss of power. Reports of hail also were received. Very little rain actually was received. A little more field work began, but most were waiting for rain. Pasture conditions remained tight and cattle were being moved to market. Cooler weather should be on the way and may help some of the pasture.

Stevens: Dry weather continued. In some cases, grain yields were reported to be less than average.

Walla Walla: Widespread thunderstorms came through Friday afternoon and helped the topsoil moisture situation. Some early seeding was getting underway up north. Hay for sale was really scarce this year. Prices have and will skyrocket. The mountain grass still looked good. Some early calf weaning will begin soon.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Harvest was mostly over, with reports favorable overall. Hay crops were very good this year; as the majority of cuttings had been completed with no damage from rainfall. Isolated thundershowers and heavy rain was received in some areas of county on Friday. The rains halted farming activities for some, but the delay was short as hot dry weather was experienced over Labor Day weekend.

Whitman: Harvest was coming to a close with the exception of those operations that have Garbanzo beans. Work now begins on preparing for seeding the fall 2008 crop. A storm passed through the area on Friday with high winds and rainfall. Additional rainfall would be welcomed prior to seeding.

Weekly Weather Statistics

September 4, 2007

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
	-----				-----				-----			-----			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
WEST	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Bellingham Intl	43	83	61	-1	75	-2	11	-6	0.06	-0.29	1	36.04	-0.23	99	176
Everett	52	79	63	+2	93	+12	23	+1	0.01	-0.40	1	34.02	-2.61	93	177
Hoquiam	49	84	63	+2	91	+12	21	+0	0.00	-0.48	0	72.05	+4.00	106	204
Kelso	46	93	66	+4	118	+25	48	+16	0.00	-0.43	0	40.66	-6.01	87	143
Olympia	44	88	63	+2	91	+10	22	+1	0.00	-0.39	0	57.26	+6.55	113	174
Seattle-Tacoma	52	86	66	+3	117	+18	47	+14	0.00	-0.35	0	45.39	+8.10	122	166
Shelton	42	90	62	-2	89	-7	20	-13	0.01	-0.39	1	77.89	+12.90	120	182
Tacoma WA AP	47	84	63	+0	91	-2	21	-6	0.00	-0.36	0	41.71	+1.34	103	167
Vancouver WA	49	95	69	+6	133	+38	63	+33	0.00	-0.37	0	38.36	-3.06	93	146
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	44	99	69	+5	132	+29	62	+21	0.00	-0.12	0	8.13	-0.83	91	81
Omak AP	48	96	68	+5	129	+31	59	+20	0.00	-0.21	0	10.44	-4.67	69	63
Stampede Pass	40	76	59	+6	64	+25	14	+7	0.00	-0.60	0	98.89	+17.69	122	189
Wenatchee	51	93	71	+2	147	+9	77	+7	0.00	-0.14	0	8.60	+0.25	103	51
Yakima AP	42	97	68	+2	127	+13	57	+7	0.00	-0.14	0	7.04	-0.97	88	62
NORTHEAST															
Colville	47	89	67	+5	121	+30	51	+16	0.12	-0.16	2	15.16	-6.14	71	110
Deer Park	34	88	63	-3	89	-16	28	-17	0.21	+0.00	2	18.36	-0.23	99	117
Republic	38	88	63	+3	91	+17	27	+2	0.05	-0.23	1	13.95	-2.01	87	80
Spokane AP	45	91	69	+4	132	+25	63	+17	0.17	-0.04	1	15.22	-1.33	92	105
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	50	93	71	+1	148	+2	78	+2	0.00	-0.07	0	7.37	+0.12	102	68
Moses Lake	44	94	70	-2	141	-5	71	-5	0.01	-0.06	1	6.44	-0.81	89	66
Quincy	48	91	69	+2	133	+10	63	+6	0.00	-0.13	0	7.95	+0.09	101	53
Ritzville	46	98	70	+5	139	+28	69	+22	0.00	-0.12	0	10.92	-0.42	96	84
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	50	100	73	-1	167	-3	97	-2	0.04	-0.07	2	4.83	-1.70	74	53
Pasco	44	99	71	+1	147	+4	77	+2	0.04	-0.06	1	7.42	-0.11	99	73
Pullman	36	94	67	+5	122	+28	59	+20	0.32	+0.11	1	17.06	-4.09	81	108
Walla Walla Rgn	52	101	75	+5	179	+31	109	+30	0.11	-0.10	1	18.43	-1.12	94	94
Whitman Mission	41	103	69	+3	133	+14	63	+10	0.10	-0.06	1	13.89	+0.10	101	103
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	52	99	75	+5	175	+33	105	+29	0.09	-0.12	1	9.05	-3.44	72	87

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2006

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation

Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

Copyright 2006: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service website: [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics by State/Washington](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington)

E-mail: nass-wa@nass.usda.gov

Free e-mail subscriptions are available via automated mailing list for National and State reports. You can subscribe to individual reports and they will be sent directly to your e-mail address soon after the official release time. Subscribe at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/sub-form.htm>